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COMMITTEES: EDUCATION FEDERAL RELATIONS

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

DISTRICT 27

## Arizona House of Representatives Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Thomas "T.J." Shope Chairman, House Ethics Committee

Dear Chairman Shope,

I am writing to submit a formal ethics complaint against Representative David Stringer for conduct impugning the integrity of the Arizona House of Representatives.

## Statement of Facts

Based on my personal knowledge from media reports, it appears that Representative Stringer has engaged in a pattern of conduct that demonstrates that he is unfit to serve in this august body. Last summer, Representative Stringer was recorded on video asserting that immigration is an "existential threat" to our country. He said, "If we don't do something about immigration very, very soon, the demographics of our country will be irrevocably changed and we will be a very different country." Representative Stringer continued his offensive comments by claiming that "there aren't enough white kids to go around" in our public schools.

In another news account of Representative Stringer's comments, he was recorded telling university students that "African-Americans and other racial groups don't . . . blend in" after arriving in the United States and that these immigrants "always look different."

Most recently, the *Phoenix New Times* has uncovered court documents from Maryland that show that Representative Stringer was charged with several sex crimes when he lived in Baltimore in 1983. According to that news report, Representative Stringer pled guilty to three sex crimes and was sentenced to five years of probation as well as treatment at a clinic that is known for treating sexual disorders.

Representative Stringer's pattern of conduct is dishonorable and unbecoming of a member of the Arizona House of Representatives. His conduct undermines the public's confidence in this institution and violates the order and decorum necessary to complete the people's work in this state.

## Violations of Laws

The Ethics Committee is empowered to investigate complaints and charges against members, A.R.S. § 38-519, as well as claims of disorderly conduct, Ariz. Const. art. 4, pt. 1, § 11, violations of state or federal laws, conduct violating the public trust or adversely reflecting upon the House, and unethical or unprofessional conduct, such as defined in A.R.S. § 32-1901.01.

The Honorable Thomas "T.J." Shope January 29, 2019 Page 2

## **Supporting Documents**

Attached to this Complaint are copies of articles from the *Phoenix New Times*, which the court documents from Maryland as well as quotes from the various videos of Representative Springer espouses his views on immigrants and other people of color.

Based on the foregoing, I request that the Ethics Committee immediately convene and investigate the alleged unethical conduct of Representative Stringer. I further request that, if the Ethics Committee investigation determines that the allegations against Representative Stringer regarding alleged criminal conduct in Maryland are true, the committee recommend Representative Stringer's expulsion as provided in the Arizona Constitution, article 4, part 2, section 11.

Submitted by,  Rep. Reginald Bolding  District 27	
State of Arizona	)
County of Maricopa	) ss. )

Sworn to and subscribed before me on  $\frac{29}{2}$  day of January 2019, by Reginald Bolding.

Notary Public Signature

OFFICIAL SEAL
JANICE M. HENDRY
Notary Public - State of Arizona
MARICOPA COUNTY
My Comm. Expires Jan. 11, 2020